

Arkansas School for the Deaf

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MISSION STATEMENT

*Working Together to Create Learning Opportunities
for Academic Excellence and Personal Independence*

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Welcome Back, Students, to an Exciting and Educational New School Year at ASD

Greetings. Welcome, to another exciting year at Arkansas School for the Deaf. We've had a busy summer here at ASD, with Summer School in June and hosting the Southwest Service Dog training at the same time.

I hope you had a good summer break and enjoyed your time off from school. Now it's time to "hit the books" again as you continue your education here at ASD.

You'll notice some changes



*Marcella Dalla Rosa,
Superintendent
of the
Arkansas
School for
the Deaf*

on campus from last school year...changes that we think have made ASD an even better place to go to school. We hope you'll agree.

Our new Campus Life Program will be in full swing this year. It was developed by ASD staff to enhance the academic and residential experiences of our students. Flint Fears, director of the program, is already a familiar face to most of you.

The Program is designed to foster student growth, development and achievement. This is done through after-school activities, required study time, and extra support from the dorm staff.

Another change on campus is a focus on student wellness through physical activity and proper nutrition. As the rate of childhood obesity has increased, so has the interest of various entities in teaching students lifestyle changes that will improve their health and well-being in the long term.

You may remember former President Clinton came to Little Rock last month to address a symposium on childhood nutrition. Governor Huckabee is a strong supporter of school programs that promote proper nutrition and student health. In addition, both state and federal law have required some changes on what foods and drinks are available to students during the school day.

Curriculum Mapping is another new area that is aimed at improving student assessment results. Teachers were trained in Curriculum Mapping during several inservice sessions last school year. With Curriculum Mapping, the curriculum is connected to the Arkansas Standards, thus ensuring that students are taught the necessary skills in order to be successful on the mandated standardized tests.

We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling year for all of our students—from our Outreach infants and toddlers, to our preschoolers, to our kindergarteners, lower school, middle school and high school students.

We hope that you will be a part of our educational experience, too.

—Marcella A. Dalla Rosa
Superintendent

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Special points of interest:

- New Parent Advisors Receive SKI*HI Training for Working with Parents
- ASD Loses Two Long-Time Staff Members
- Multi-cultural Activities Well-Received by Summer School Students
- New Campus Life Program Promises to Be Fun for Students and Help Improve Their Study Habits

Arkansas School for the Deaf Hosts SKI*HI Training for New Family Advisors in June and July

LEA Support System for the Hearing Impaired (LEASSHI), the outreach arm of Arkansas School for the Deaf, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, conducted a training for new Parent Advisors at ASD this summer. Approximately twenty people from all over Arkansas attended the training.

The Parent Advisors will be working with families who have babies and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing. The training prepares them to meet with parents weekly and answer their questions about hearing impairment, language

development, and a variety of other topics, as well as teach the parents how to work with their babies. LEASSHI currently serves 539 children from infancy through age 8.

Through a grant received by DHHS, we were able to contract with two national trainers, one

from Texas and one from Oklahoma. They conducted the 6-day workshop with the support of LEASSHI staff. ASD provided the site for the training, copied materials, loaned manuals to some of the participants, and provided refreshments for breaks.

We are very excited to have some new Parent Advisors to provide this much-needed service to the parents and families of infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Frequently the Parent Advisor is the resource that parents see the most frequently. The knowledge and information they share with parents is invaluable.

Submitted by Gillis Ward



*Training Families
to Be
Teachers Through SKI-HI*

ASD Loses Two Long-Time Staff Members in Past School Year

The Arkansas School for the Deaf suffered the loss of two long-

time staff members during the 2205-2006 school year.

Dennis Bradford, a member of the local Deaf Community, died suddenly last fall. He had been employed at ASD for 15 1/2 years and worked in the Central Supply Department.

Bill Sim-

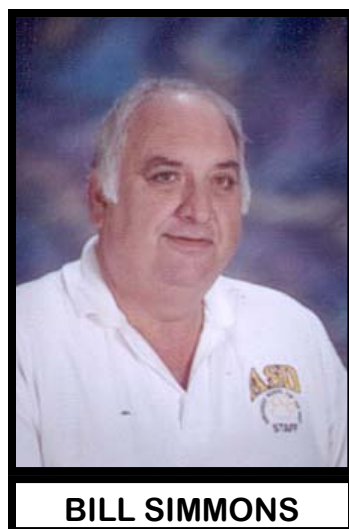
mons, Supervisor of the Transportation Department, suffered a fatal heart attack last spring. He had worked at ASD for 27 1/2 years.

Both men were known for their willingness to work and their positive attitudes. They will be missed personally by the ASD staff, as well as professionally for their work ethic.

The staff of ASD will remember Dennis and Bill, their families and the friends who mourn their loss. Our thoughts are with them.



DENNIS BRADFORD



BILL SIMMONS

Summer Vacation Ends for ASD Students as They Register for the New School Year

Students returned to the Arkansas School for the Deaf on August 20 to register for the 2006-2007 school year.

Registered students represent school districts from all four corners of the state, including the Fayetteville/Springdale area in the Northwest, Jonesboro in the Northeast, Texarkana and Hope in the Southwest, and Monticello, McGehee and Pine Bluff in the Southeast.

Back to school activities for registration day included parent/student orientation, tours of the campus for new students, dorm and locker assignments, renewing friendships and talking about their summer break.

Students found some changes at ASD upon their return. In compliance with state and federal law, some soda vending machines were moved and their contents changed to include more healthy choices. They also learned that a new Campus Life Program will be implemented.

It promises to improve study skills, raise test scores, and provide for more physical and social activities.

The Arkansas School for the Deaf has been serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing for 156 years. It has a preschool program on campus in addition to its K-12 program. Children around the state from 0 through 8 are also served by ASD's outreach program— LEA Support Services for Hearing Impaired (LEASSHI).



Worker at Registration Day helps parent with her forms.



High school students catch up on summertime news.



Middle School student with her grandparents at Registration Day.



(Far left) Lower School student helps her mother complete forms at Registration. (Near left) Lower School students and siblings renew their friendship at Registration Day.



Summer School Students Study Foreign Culture, Customs and Cuisine



An average of 22 students took part in a multi-cultural experience during summer

school at ASD in June. In addition to their regular studies and recreational activities, they participated in games, food preparation, and eating the foods they had prepared from recipes from China, Italy and Mexico. They even made their own Italian

sausage! As you can see, they had a lot of fun, as well as learning about other countries.



Summer School students prepare an Italian meal while their classmates learn the rules of the Italian lawn game, Bocce, refereed by our own Superintendent, Marcella Dalla Rosa.



New Campus Life Program Promises New Activities, Support From the Staff, and Fun!

The new school year brings the start of a new Campus Life Program for students, developed by Flint Fears of the ASD Staff. Modeling ASD's program from those of schools in other states, Flint has put together a program unique to ASD that will provide a safe, comfortable and educational environment for our day and residential students.

The Campus Life Program will combine an After School Program of fun activities with required study hours supervised and supported by residential staff. The Program is designed to foster student growth, development and achievement.

With the staff of both the school and the residential program now working together, "the student cannot help but benefit and grow and learn" in

an atmosphere that is supportive and caring.

The After-School Program will consist of a variety of activities, such as athletics, arts and crafts, mini-courses, fun/educational games, and an educational session. The After-School Program will take place from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and will involve both residential students and day students who are interested in participating.

The required study hours will vary between the dorms. Lower School study hour will

go from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Dorm. Middle School study time will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Library. High School will have a two-hour study period from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

It is anticipated that the Program will enhance the academic and social experience of ASD's students, with the expectation that grades and standardized test scores will also improve.

For more information about the Campus Life Program, contact Flint Fears by email at flintf@asd.k12.ar.us.

Individuals who would like to volunteer to assist with Campus Life Program should contact Darleen Riley Tripcony, Volunteer Coordinator, at 501-324-9506 or by email at darleent@asd.k12.ar.us.



**Flint Fears
Campus Life
Director**

'Volunteer of the Year' Honored at Year's End

Ernest Northup of Little Rock has been honored as ASD's Volunteer of the Year for 2005-06.

Mr. Northup retired as Senior Accounting Administrative Assistant for United Parcel



**Ernest Northup,
2006 Volunteer of
the Year**

Service after 29 years. He put in 354 volunteer hours at ASD during 2005-06 maintaining the Memorial Garden and the High School Courtyard garden, working with the Boy Scouts, and mentoring students.

He also volunteered

with the High School drama program, served as game timer for basketball games and decorated for graduation. In addition, Mr. Northup taught Character Education and Sign Language classes.

Mr. Northup, a member of the local Deaf community, is married to Barbara Northup, an ASD High School Teacher.

ASD Campus Plays Host to Four-Week Training for Southwest Service Dogs of Clarksville

The sight of golden retrievers and adolescents was a common one on the ASD campus in June as Southwest Service Dogs of Russellville held a four-week training here.

The dogs were needing a more metropolitan experience than that offered by Russellville, ac-

cording to Kate Morgan, founder and director of Southwest Service Dogs. She was looking for a site that was large enough to house several golden retrievers, was accessible to public transportation, and was willing to allow her to bring her dogs to town and let her work with them and students recruited for the job.

With only Summer School going on for three weeks in

June during the summer, ASD had plenty of room for the dogs and students, and was able to support this worthwhile program. Although most of the students who participated were from the Little Rock School District, one ASD student, also worked with a dog.

For four weeks, each student had the responsibility for a particular dog...feeding, watering, grooming, cleaning up after him....as well as the experience of taking the dog to new places, such as the Museum of Discovery and the State Capitol. The object is to expose the dog to as many different situations as possible. This will help the dog accept unusual or unexpected situations when working with a person with a disability.

Although all of her dogs so far have gone to individuals with disabilities, Ms. Morgan said she hopes to begin training dogs to assist individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Several students from the Little Rock area also worked with the Service Dogs. The dogs can open doors, pick up objects, assist their owners with dressing, turn on lights, and many other tasks.

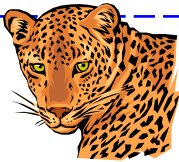


ASD Student with the Service Dog she helped train.



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ASD Is Well Represented at Biennial Special Education Conference

The Arkansas Department of Education held its biennial Special Show at the Hot Springs Convention Center from July 26-28. Around 2000 persons attended.

Several Arkansas School for the Deaf staff members made presentations. Ruthann Barrington from the LEA Support Services for Hearing Impaired (LEASSHI) staff spoke about Cochlear Implants. Jennifer Mobley and Rick Porter from Lower School gave a presentation titled

"Multi-sensory Reading Intervention with Hearing-Impaired Students". Both presentations were well-attended and received very positive evaluations.

Dr. Carol Flexer from the University of Akron (Ohio) spoke about auditory brain development. Dr. Flexer has authored several books on audiology and other aspects of hearing impairment.

On Thursday, there was a special all-day workshop for educational interpreters presented

by Ray James of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The interpreters who attended received lots of valuable information to take back to the Deaf students in their school districts.

ASD was also represented in the Exhibit Hall. The display identified the various programs at ASD and provided information about hearing impairment and deafness.

Jim Wilson of ASD was on hand to handle the media needs for Dr. Flexer and the ASD presenters.

Submitted by Gillis Ward

